H.C. BURLEIGH PAPERS

Wemp, Barney + Family

(10)

Barney Wemp's name is found in a list of personnel in Kingston in 1785. What happened to him after that date can only be assumed. But, if it is true that his mother was the Widow Wemp who married Jean Richard in Fort Hunter, which I definitely believe, it would be a reason why he returned to Oswego, where his mother resided.

In 1787, when Oswego became American Territory, the Loyalists stationed there, including Lt Jean Richard and his family removed to the Bay of Quinte region. As all the land in the four townships had been granted to others, Lt Richard and Barney Wemp drew land in Prince Edward County, as we know + at a later date Barney Wemp removed to Amherst Island about 1789 where resided until his death.

There is record that
Corporal Jean Richard
Private Barney Wemp
were members of Henry Young's Company after 1784

I have only disagreement with the Genealogy of the Wemp Family of Amherst Island. The compiler has chosen the wrong Barney Wemp as head of this Canadian family. And I cant truthfully blame him for his error, seeing that there were so many parents of that name – Barney. The error is that he chose the wrong Barney.

He informs us that the father of our Canadian family was born in 1738. This is wrong, as the records of the Haldimand Papers in the Public Archives in Ottawa contains a Census of Cataraqui, Sept 1783, which informs us that

Barney Wemp of the Indian Dept. was aged 24 yrs 6 months His wife Catherine also noted in the census was 22 years 2 months In addition it is found that Barney was a member of the Indian Department in Sept 1779. Later in the same year he married Cathrine Galts who was with him in Cataraqui in 1783.

While he was in Upper Canada in the fall of 1783, there is no documentary record of him or his wife until in 1791 when his daughter Mary was baptized. They were then living in Marysburgh Township. This makes me believe that he and his wife returned to Oswego, where John Richard was in charge of the Indian Store. This makes me believe that Barney was a son of the Widow Wemp who later married St Jean Richard. And that both families remained in Oswego until 1787 when that post was turned over to the American Rebels

On 8 July 1794 when the Court of Quarter Sessions was held in Adolphustown, Barnabas Wemp, along with Joh Richards, served on the Grand Jury

Barney Wemp's Family

I have only one disagreement with the Wemp Genealogy. It covers the family that flourished on Amherst Island. There is only one error in the account of the family. The American who compiled the Wemp Story of Canada made one error. He chose the wrong Barnabas (Barney) Wemp. The error is only natural, seeing that the were so many Barneys in the different branches. The matter of choosing the right Barney requires more than just picking a name, as it seems the author did without giving the matter a careful screening.

To begin, the chosen Barney was a full ~~thirteen~~ twenty three years older than his wife, which is unnatural, unless he was a widower, which he wasn't. A search of Loyalist Military records informs us that Barney Wemp was a soldier in the Indian Department and was serving as such from 25th March to 24 Sept 1779. This coincides with the service period of Lieut Jean Richard, a French-born Interpreter with the Indian Department. It is known that he had married a Widow Wemp. In subsequent ~~servic~~ military service, it is noted that Richard and Wemp were often times in close connection. And Barney Wemp who married Catharine Gates on 11 Dec 1779, was shown as being at Oswego N.Y., and that they evidently had accompanied Major Gray to Cataraqui in August, 1783, where they were mentioned in the Census of 4 Dec 1783, as

Barney Wemp, age 24 yrs 6 mo
Catharine Wemp, age 22 yrs 2 mo

as members of the Indian Department. It is apparent that Barney & wife remained in Cataraqui until after Sir John Johnson accepted them as settlers on Isle Tonti. And the more I consider the matter the surer I am that Barney Wemp was a stepson of Lieut. Jean Richard

~~or they may have returned to Oswego until it was handed over to N Y State~~

Barney Wemp & Family.

or they may have returned to Oswego until that fort was handed over to New York State 3 years later And only then did they make steps to settle in Upper Canada.

And when one notes that Barney ~~died~~ was born in 1738 and died on 25 Dec 1843, according to the genealogy as well as John C. Clark's Diary, it would make him one hundred and two years of age at death. To this I must add that I never in all my years at Bath or on the Island ever heard a Wemp bragging that his ancestor ~~was~~ died a centennarian. 105 — 84

Have I proved my point?

Wemps

Genealogies of First Settlers of Schenectady

NB

Barent, son of Barent and Sarah Smitt, gebroot in Het Maqueslaand Jan. 6, 1759. During the Revolution he lived at Caughnawaga, where his house was burned May 22, 1780, by Johnson's Indians.
(Is there an error in date of birth? It might well be June 6, instead of Jan 6.)

Compare this with

Census of Catarraqui 4 Dec 1783
Barney Wemp age 24 yrs 6 mos (b. June 1759)
William Wemp age 22 yrs 2 mos (b. Sept 1761)

Barney shown as serving in Indian Dept from 25 Mar to 24 Sep 1779

It is recorded that they married 11 Dec., 1779. He was then a soldier in the Indian Department

Marin Gates, wife of Richard Hitchins is recorded as born 22 May 1773. They were married 3 Sept 1804. She was then called a Widow Marin Nesler with one daughter only. She would be 31 yrs of age

An interesting story has been found in paper ~~found in~~ involving the Hitchins family. It reveals a connection with the Wemp family which should be investigated further

An interesting story has been discovered which reveals a family connection of the Hitchins and Wemp families. As little or no proof has been found to confirm or deny this relationship, something should be done to ~~confirm~~ prove

The Hitchins-Wemp Relationships.

There is an intensely interesting story which connects the Wemp and Hitchins families and which should be told as known today, and should lead to further investigation.

It is related that Barney Wemp had somehow obtained the release of his wife Miss Catherine Gates from some Indian group who had made her and her younger sister Mary prisoners. Barney Wemp, then a soldier in the Indian Department, married Miss Gates about 1782. He was then 24 years of age and she 22 years of age, according to a census record of Cataraqui in the autumn of 1783.

It is related that Barney rescued the younger Gates child by galloping his horse into the Indian Camp and seizing the little one. He then galloped to the British Fort with the Indians in pursuit. The little girl eventually about 1810 became the wife of Richard Hitchins. She was then the mother of a little girl, Maria, whose father was named Nesler

The Hitchins family removed from the Mohawk Valley to Amherst Island about 1816, possibly so the sisters would be together. Their son, John Hitchins, the first Postmaster of Amherst Island was born in 1814; before their arrival

A search in records of the Mohawk River Valley fails to confirm this story, but there was a Michael Gates found in the Census of New York State in 1790. He could have been the father of these girls

Descendants of Barnabas & Katrine (Gates) Wemp, would, I feel sure, have a fuller account of the following story. This is now the Hitchins' side of it.

"Richard Hitchins born in Cornwall, England, A.D. 1777."
Died in Canada 16 Feb. 1845. (Buried 18 Feb 1845 (St Johns Church record)
His tombstone is in St. Johns Churchyard, Bath, south side of the church. Masonic emblem (Square & compass) is on his gravestone as well as the "born in Cornwall, England A.D. 1777" and the date of his death. and "ag 68 yrs."

He was married 3 Sept. 1804 in New York to Mary Gates (a widow – Nesler – with one child).

Mary Gates had an elder sister, Katrine, & in the Mohawk Valley during the Revolutionary War both girls were prisoners among the Indians. Young Barnabas [Barent] Wemp succeeded in having Katrine given up & married her. (Dec. 11. 1779) [He is listed on the U.E.L. list as "Soldier in Col. Guy Johnson's Foresters] Then when he tried to claim the younger girl the Indians refused to let her go & set a guard over her, so one day running his horse into the Indian village he caught up the child & raced the tribesmen to the fort gates. Soldiers saw him coming & threw open the gates in time to let him through. The Indians, seeing they could not capture him & the girl, threw their tomahawks at him, which were found sticking in the gate posts.

Ethel Hitchins went years ago to a hospital in Kingston to see an elderly great-aunt of hers, a patient there, to ask for

the correct version of what she said used to be called "the running the gauntlet story," (as given above). She spoke of Albany as the home of Barnabas Wemp at one time. [The name of the Fort was not mentioned.]

Mary Gates born in N.Y. 22 May 1773 (Hitchins Bible) died in Canada in Jan 1823. St. John's Church record reads: "Mary, wife of Richard Hitchins was interred this day by me - 19 Jan. 1823." John Stoughton - Rector. She was buried ~~behind~~ under the north-east corner of the chancel of St John's Church. That is - the chancel was a later extension of the building. [Family story.] They had 3 children:-

1 Eliza, who married Robert Preston, son of Isaac & Sarah (Potts) Preston.

2 Louisa, born 30 March 1809 (Hitchins Bible) died 26 Aug. 1856 "aged 47."
(Gravestone - old Pentland (Pentleton) Cemetery:)
At St. Paul's Church, Fredericksburgh, record gives her marriage 20 Nov. 1829, to William James Jackson Howard, Son of John Howard Jr. - grandson of John Howard Sr.)

3 John, who married Elizabeth Hesse Wemp, dau. of William Wemp (son of Barnabas & Katharine (Gates) Wemp)

The Masonic certificate of Richard Hitchins came into my hands via Gertrude Preston. It had been among her father's papers. (W. H. Preston). "We the Master Wardens of Morton Lodge #20 Ancient York Masons held in the City of New York, North America Know ye that our worthy brother Richard Hitchins has been duly exalted to the sublime degree of a Master Mason &c &c &c.
18th day of August S.L. 5809."

It was duly signed - 5 signatures - & "Richard Hitchins".

I took it over to the Grand Secretary's office in Masonic Hall, N.Y.C. & they were much interested and very helpful. One man said sadly. "What wouldn't I give to have my Great-great grandfather's certificate - if he had one." They told me 18th day of August 5809 means 18th day of August 1809. Morton Lodge #20 is now extinct, having lost its charter in 1834. There is still a Morton Lodge in this vicinity but it is Morton Lodge #63.

The certificate is now owned by Robert Wilmot Preston who seemed the logical one to have it since his name Robert came from his father Robert Cecil Preston, who in turn had been given the name of his uncle Robert Preston whose wife was Eliza Hitchins, daughter of Richard Hitchins of Cornwall.

I when the name "Hitchins" was filled in by the clerk, on the certificate the 's was the old fashioned ſ so it looked like Hetchings but the signature itself had the modern "s".

To Robert Cumberland :- I know all this family stuff will not be the proper thing for the Island history but it may give you a talking point, since knowing it may help you in questioning descendants who may have old tales, half-forgotten, about the early settlement.

About the South Shore - There was some reason why her father & mother (Aunt Mary told me) went to settle there. It had to do with the newer arrivals who settled there or newer arrivals expected. But I haven't an idea as to who the owner of the Island was then or how newcomers were encouraged to settle there.

MEWB.